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Huskies are hitting on all cylinders

The Haliburton County Huskies forward Patrick Saini celebrates his goal during Ontario Junior Hockey League action against the Trenton Golden Hawks on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. Saini led all players with five points (three goals and two assists) and was named the first star in the 6-2 win. The Huskies win against the Golden Hawks has them riding a five-game winning streak. See more photos on pages 8 and 9. /DARREN LUM Staff

Region's top doctor expects early flu season

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The seventh wave of COVID-19 hasn't ended and, as such, people need to remain vigilant to stifle the spread of the virus and its various strains.

That vigilance is all the more important given the fact stu-

dents are back in schools and there seems to be the possibility of an earlier than anticipated influenza season.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, said during an information session Oct. 5 that an earlier than normal flu season is expected this fall.

"We're certainly seeing a slight uptick in respiratory illnesses overall," she said. "We have started the respiratory

illness season. We know that every fall, with kids back to school, with a lot cooler weather, we start to see circulation of other respiratory viruses."

Globally, broader public health measures to safeguard against the virus have largely ended, despite a lot of uncertainty related to COVID-19.

"We don't know for sure how it's going to evolve next,"

see PUBLIC page 2

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Public encouraged to help reduce the spread of infection

from page 1

how it's going mutate, what it's going to mean," Bocking said. "Hospital admissions this time of the year for respiratory illness continues at a slight increase," she said. "It's reassuring that the jump in admissions hasn't reached a dramatic level, though."

Not yet, anyway. The slight increase in hospitalizations is something Bocking expects to continue throughout the fall and winter.

"We know that influenza season's started earlier than historically in the southern hemisphere," she said. "We look at countries such as Australia and we see that influenza started much earlier for them."

"We're anticipating that we might see an earlier than usual influenza season."

There's been a slight uptick in some COVID-19 indicators. An increase provincially in wastewater activity and patient testing.

Locally, there's also been a slight uptick in test positivity rates and wastewater indicators.

"We didn't come down to baseline," she said. "We continued at a higher level than perhaps what we previously thought was normal and we're starting to see the very beginning of a slight uptick."

An increase in test positivity and number of new outbreaks precedes a rise in hospital admissions. And the number of individuals admitted to hospital with COVID-19 has steadied over the last few weeks.

There's been six new admissions in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District, she said.

Globally, Omicron has further mutated to many sub-variants. "We're waiting to see what will happen here in Canada as those variants become more dominant in Canada," she said.

Omicron will continue to dominate and to mutate into sub-variants that will become new drivers of infection.

"This is the new course of COVID-19," she said. "At least our current course."

Ontario has dropped mask mandates throughout the province and introduced what has been described as too-lax measures against the virus' spread. Federally, the mandatory testing at the border, 14-day quarantine, and other isolation requirements ended Oct. 1.

"There's still very important actions we can take as individuals and as communities to try to prevent further spread of COVID-19 and protect individuals most at risk for severe illness," Bocking said.

Stay up to date with COVID-19 and influenza vaccines. Stay home until at least 24 hours without a fever. And wear a mask for at least 10 days afterwards.

Those measures will prevent the spread of COVID-19, influenza, and other respiratory ailments, she said.

The worldwide lockdown for two years interrupted the spread of influenza, she said.

"We saw what the impact is on influenza and other respiratory viruses when we had broader public health measures," she said. "We didn't see influenza. We saw very little other respiratory virus activity."

Most of all, vaccines and boosters are effective measures against the coronavirus.

"We're all looking forward to seeing COVID-19 to continue to calm down and moving forward with living with COVID," Bocking said.

"But we also know that living with COVID means ongoing responsibility for us as individuals and collectively to do our part to prevent transmission, especially to those most vulnerable."



Dr. Natalie Bocking said the public can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, influenza and other respiratory ailments by getting vaccinated, and staying home for 24 hours without a fever.

Conditions for Bear Lake Road winter maintenance

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands council will continue to do limited winter maintenance on Bear Lake Road.

But there are conditions.

And fine-tuning those caveats required the arduous "thick soup of process" and a special meeting of town council Oct. 4, said Mayor Carol Moffatt.

A little beyond seven kilometres long, Bear Lake Road is a forest access road as defined in the Public Lands Act, which permits a statutory right of use by the public.

The fact Bear Lake Road is Crown land muddled the issue of winter maintenance. A further complication was the bridge on the road that is a municipal asset.

"It's been a long morning for us," said Moffatt. "We've had a tremendous amount of legal advice and there are still some issues to be ironed out."

The resolution: Given the unique character, location, and situation of Bear Lake Road, council supported the township doing minor maintenance on a year-by-year basis. The bridge will be plowed, subject to an agreement between the township and the Bear Lake Road Winter Maintenance Association detailing requirements for damages to the bridge as a result of plowing.

"We need to protect that bridge asset, and also look at some continued access," the mayor said.

There's also a requirement for proof of liability insurance of \$5-million each by the association, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, and a third-party contractor. The township will also be named as an additional insured.

Municipal staff will outline the parameters of what constitutes minor maintenance work that will be done on the road.

Council also reserved the right to assess the outcome and review further options in the future.

Final details will be worked out during the next council meeting.

"We'd like to get this wrapped up in time for winter," Moffatt said.

Council considered five options regarding the road's maintenance.

Ceasing maintenance would leave property owners and the public to undertake activities of choice under the Public Lands Act and without any involvement by the township.

If council sought full and formal jurisdiction of Bear Lake Road through an Order-in-Council, it would have given the township full jurisdiction of the road.

The town could've requested that the provincial government close Bear Lake Road during winter. That would have denied access to residents who use their properties in the winter and impact other long-standing recreational uses such as snowmobiling.

A fourth consideration was that the town not seek jurisdiction at all but continue maintenance activities such as grading.

As a final possibility, the township could have divested to the Crown all interest in the Bear Lake Road bridge.

The Oct. 4 resolution is another step in what's been a years-long journey for the people of Bear Lake Road.

Property owners have requested since 1971 that the town do winter maintenance on Bear Lake Road. Each time such a request was received, the council of the day reviewed the situation.

Each of those previous requests had been denied because of safety and liability issues.

Then council got a request in 2017 to allow residents to provide their own winter maintenance on Bear Lake Road. But that was denied as well.

At a meeting in July, council considered the road's jurisdiction and a legal opinion on the issue provided by lawyers at Cassels Brock.

A discussion was held in relation to questions and options about the road's Crown land status, including the addition of the fourth option which had not been clearly explained by legal counsel.

Council directed that the fourth option be included for consideration at a later meeting along with further clarification on the questions and options raised around the Crown land status of the road.

As a result of council's request for further clarification of Crown land questions and options, legal counsel included the last option, which was to divest to the Crown all interest in the Bear Lake Road bridge.



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Razzamataz returns with all new board

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

The show will go on for Razzamataz with a whole new board of directors and five exciting shows for their new season.

After a two-year hiatus, the family entertainment series is back with five unique performances for families in the Highlands.

Nicole Stewart, a new resident to Haliburton County, was recently made the chair of the board of Razzamataz Kids' Shows.

"[Razzamataz is] something that I think is very needed in our community. It's an opportunity for kids to see theatre when really they wouldn't otherwise be introduced to it. You get a lot of kids coming, and it's their first time ever seeing a live theatre performance, and it brings a lot of joy," she said.

The first show of the year is on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion in Haliburton.

Tara Luz Danse is a Francophone group from Ottawa performing a show called Les bâtons.

"It's a very interesting mix of contemporary dance, music, and theatre. What they have are these batons or boomwhackers, and they basically do all sorts of surprising and unexpected things with them including making music. They have a drummer that comes along with them as well, and they just put on a really engaging and fun show," Stewart said.

Following this performance, Razzamataz will have a ventriloquist show on Nov. 13, the Kif-Kif Sisters on Feb. 5, Nhapitapi from Zimbabwe on Mar. 19, 2023, and the Carousel Players to finish the season on Apr. 30, 2023.

Stewart's background has proved to be a valuable asset to Razzamataz this season.

"I'm also a programmer, so I go and scout talent to bring back to the county. We attended different events and children's festivals, usually in the summer time," she said.

Razzamataz is part of an organization called Ontario Presents along with similar groups in Central/Northern Ontario.

"We put our heads together on who we would like to have, and then Ontario Presents helps us to organize a tour in order to get some really high-quality performers to come to the north and perform in our towns."



Dancers Mélissa Roy, from left, Amanda Bon and Alexane Couture perform during Les bâtons by Tara Luz Danse, which is being presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion in Haliburton. Tickets are \$7 for children and \$10 for adults. For advance tickets visit razzamataz.ca. Photo by Jeremy Mimmagh

This allows for a broad range of talent to come to the Highlands for this year's Razzamataz shows.

"We're very excited for the shows that we're bringing in this year. We have some local people coming in from Ontario and we also have a musical group coming from Zimbabwe to do a show. It's a nice variety of some contemporary dance, comedy, music, and musical theatre," Stewart said.

They decided to include five shows instead of the usual four due to a two-year hiatus.

"This year, we're making a comeback after a two-year COVID pause. We're really excited to get back into the community and do a bunch of shows to engage young people," she said.

The organization has been around for 30 years, making it an entertainment series that many Haliburton County children

have grown up with.

"Because we had to stop for two years, there's actually a number of [kids] who have aged out of the shows, and so we really want to come back and let the community know that we're here, we're doing more shows, and really engage a new, young audience."

Razzamataz typically caters their shows to infants up to 12-year-old children.

Stewart has a young daughter herself and said many of the other board members have younger children.

"We have a great lineup of shows and a whole new, highly energized group that's ready to get out and help put the shows on. I think it's going to be a wonderful season."

Tickets can be purchased at www.razzamataz.ca or at the door on show days.

www.mindenhills.ca

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ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS!

The UFO's (Unfinished Objects Craft Group) will be meeting at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on October 21 from 1-3 pm. This is a perfect opportunity for you to take time out of your busy schedule and join with other local crafters to work on your neglected projects. Bring a beverage, a snack and your project to the Cultural Centre. The group will be meeting the third Friday of each month from 1-3 pm.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Are you ready in the event of an emergency? Do you have your 72 hours kit ready? Do you know the risks, have you made an escape plan? Have you talked to your neighbour, practiced your escape and included your pets? We can help, contact the Fire Department today.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Come join our team! We are looking to fill the following positions:

Customer Service Representative
Cultural Program Coordinator
Student Arena Attendants
Student Recreation Attendants

Keep informed of current job postings by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for a list of available employment opportunities.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Vendors wanted for the Christmas in the Village outdoor Artisan's Market at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, Saturday November 19 from 11 am – 3 pm. Call 705-286-1260 x 542 or culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca for details.

2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

There are three different ways to vote in the 2022 Municipal Election.

Internet
Telephone
Traditional Paper Ballot

The voting period for Eligible Voters using Internet or Telephone commences on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 10:00 am until 8:00 PM on Monday, October 24, 2022.

TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

The following tender opportunities are available:

FIRE – RFT #FIRE22-001 for the Supply and Delivery of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equipment

CSD – RFT#CSD22-001 for the Supply and Renovation of the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Concession Stand

RFI #ENV 22-006 for Digital Access Cards for Waste Disposal Sites

Keep informed of current projects available to bid on by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for a list of available tender opportunities.

(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

October 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, October 15th 7:30AM to 11:30AM, bring your hazardous waste items to the Minden Community Centre (55 Parkside Street). Paints, aerosols, batteries, cleaners, fluorescent bulbs and more will be accepted. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for a full list of items.

EAT offers tasteful cocktails in downtown Minden

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

EAT, located in the same space as Ommmh hair salon and boutique, has added cocktails to their refined palette of meats and cheeses in downtown Minden to allow customers to feel safe and special while enjoying tasteful alcohol and carefully selected ingredients.

“We are geared towards an open-minded, female driven headspace where women can come and feel safe, feel like they’re being taken care of, and that people from any walk of life can feel special and feel safe,” said owner of EAT and Ohhhm Shawn Smandych.

The cheeserie and cocktail bar offers high-end, creative cocktails and the stimulating experience that comes along with watching them be created and enjoying them.

The idea came to Smandych years ago after seeing similar cocktail bars in Europe coexisting with other spaces.

“I wanted to offer more to this environment,” Smandych said. “It’s always been on the backburner of things we wanted to do, but it was a matter of space, time, ability, staff, location, permitting. Once we ended up consolidating everything just before COVID, that gave us the ability to do it here, and so that’s when we really pursued it.”

EAT received their liquor licence at the end of COVID-19 health measures, so it was the perfect time to bring cocktails to their tables.

“We just knew it was going to take more time to deal with supply issues. Of course, the biggest issue was trying to find somebody who understands the concept that we’re going for.”

Smandych found just that in Allana Ziorjen, long-time local Minden resident and cocktail extraordinaire.

Ziorjen had managed many bars and restaurants while previously living in Ottawa, and she knew that her community was lacking the experience she and Smandych both desired.

“People deserve to feel special and they deserve to have wonderful things, so if we can do a little something to accomplish that, then we’ve done our job,” Ziorjen said.

When Ziorjen saw the advertisement for the cocktail bartender job at EAT, she knew it was meant to be.

“I’ve known Shawn for a long time, and I figured we’d be a good fit, but I didn’t realize how good it would be and how in sync our visions for what we could do are,” Ziorjen said.

She began her career in the restaurant business at Wintergreen Maple Products and Sugar Shack on Gelert Road as a teenager.

“It was my first kitchen job, and for the last 20 years, in one way or another, I have worked every position in restaurants. About 10 years ago in Ottawa, I happened to meet the right people, and they took me under their wing and brought me into a new concept cocktail bar that was opening. I learned everything there from the ground up. My heart was always in the craft industry,” she said.

Smandych says they aim to offer a unique experience to Minden, a growing and desirable tourist destination.

“Our thing is cocktails; creative, higher end, art-based cocktails. If you really truly believe that our community is the next Muskoka, this is the next step. You have to bring something to the table that appeals to that group of people,” Smandych said.

Enjoying cocktails at EAT is about the experience of sipping a drink alone or with a group of friends and feeling safe while doing so.



Allana Ziorjen, cocktail bartender at EAT in Minden, holds up an old fashioned.

“We’re somewhere where you go and have one or two drinks, enjoy them, relish them, and watch them be created because half of it is in the creation of them. We step back and focus on glassware, ice, good ingredients, so that everything is touched from the bottom up,” Ziorjen said.

Ziorjen makes things like apple cider and bitters from scratch.

“We’re trying to keep it as in-house as possible, and that allows us to experiment and come up with higher-end, unique distinct ingredients and cocktails.”

The specialty cocktails offered are original to Eat Cheeserie and Cocktails. They have deliberately chosen ingredients for each.

“Because of that, it allows us to go from something valued at \$12 to something that’s valued at \$40, but that’s all part of that profile factor of what’s on your tongue,” Smandych said.

The cocktail bar also focuses on Canadian companies and distilleries to provide many of their ingredients and products.

“We’re also bringing in things that maybe people have



EAT Cheeserie and Cocktails offers a warm, welcoming space to enjoy tasteful cocktails. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

never seen, that you aren’t going to see at every bar. Whether or not you order a vodka soda, a vodka martini, or a custom cocktail off the list, it’s all good quality product,” Ziorjen said.

They also offer non-alcoholic drinks and mocktails with the same high-quality ingredients.

EAT will be offering classes to offer the full experience of creating cocktails and enjoying them

“That’s the side of this industry that I’ve always been in love with is the ability to experiment and be creative. We want to encourage others to do the same,” Ziorjen said. “It can seem really intimidating to make cocktails and make them well, but it’s really fun, and so to be able to share that and take away the intimidating factors of it is definitely important to me.”

Their first classes is Cocktail 101 held on Nov. 5 at 11 a.m., and again at 3 p.m. It will focus on cocktail fundamentals, equipment, proper ice making, flavour balances, and more.

Tickets are \$75 and will include two cocktails and a 15 per cent discount on certain barware.

They will also be hosting an adult only Halloween Bash in partnership with Minden Pride on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 5 to 10 p.m. Costumes are mandatory and there is a \$5 cover charge. Light snacks and Halloween goodies will be provided.

EAT Cheeserie and Cocktails can be contacted by phone, (705) 702-0208, or email, eatminden@gmail.com, or found on Instagram @eatminden.

Ziorjen can be found on Instagram @thatgirlwhopours.

Fire Prevention Week is about education

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Fire Prevention Week this year is all about planning ahead for the worst-case scenario to ensure the best possible outcome.

It started Sunday, Oct. 9 and ends Saturday, Oct. 15, and this year’s theme is, “Fire won’t wait, plan your escape,” according to the Canadian Armed Forces fire marshal.

“Dysart will be promoting home fire escape planning. Have a plan, practice it, know your meeting place and have a 72 hour kit ready for any emergency,” said Dysart et al interim fire chief Dan Chumbley.

The Canadian Red Cross recommends that a 72 hour emergency kit should include wa-

ter, non-perishable food, necessary medication, important family documents, a copy of your emergency plan, a flashlight with extra batteries, spare keys, a first aid kit, money, hygiene items, pet food, and an extra phone.

The Minden Hills fire department will be out in the community for Fire Prevention Week to educate businesses and the public about fire safety.

“With this year’s theme, we really want to encourage the public to sit down with their family members, co-workers, neighbours, and friends to plan safe escape plans in case of a fire and to practice those plans,” said Minden Hills fire chief Shain Duda.

From a statement by the Canadian Armed Forces Fire Marshal, working together with

those you live and work with is key to be prepared for a fire in your home or workplace.

“During fire prevention week, everyone is encouraged to team up with family to complete a fire safety inspection of your home, spotting potential dangers, and developing and practicing a fire escape plan in order to be prepared to react correctly if a fire strikes,” read the statement.

Chumbley said autumn is an important time of year to focus on fire prevention and to be reminded of safety tips.

“We are at the time of year where people are starting up fires to warm their homes. We would like to remind them to use safe practices around fireplaces and woodstoves, including proper cleaning and disposal of

ashes,” he said.

Duda also said being prepared with a 72 hour emergency kit and ensuring your home or workplace is equipped with working fire alarms is a crucial part of fire safety.

Chumbley would like to remind Dysart residents that safety should always be a top priority no matter how busy life gets.

“Fire Prevention Week is important because people have busy schedules and don’t always allow time to plan ahead. We wish to remind them that safety should always come first.”

For more information about fire prevention and protection, visit www.ontario.ca/page/fire-prevention-and-protection.

Record falls for Farmers' Market

Cottagers Adam O'Neill with his son, Declan, were all smiles at the last day for the Haliburton County Farmers' Market of the season where they picked up some treats on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the Minden location. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



The last Haliburton County Farmers' Market of the year offered a variety of seasonal snacks, including this lineup from Fisher's Farm on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the Minden location in town. The 2022 Farmers' Market broke their previous attendance record of 30,000 by drawing 39,741 people this year.

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There's always room for thanks

THANKSGIVING WAS ON Monday, Oct. 10 and is past now, but I wish it was more than one day.

Well, not the day so much as the feeling felt.

Why put a limit on being thankful?

It's more than a nice thing for people to wish a "Happy Thanksgiving." It's the right thing to do in a world where a war continues to be waged in Ukraine, where we are enduring rising prices of everything, where recession is on the horizon, and where we are all still figuring out how to live and interact with each other in a post-pandemic world.

However, imagine if we were open to the idea of saying "Happy Thanksgiving" separate from the holiday?

I compare it to around Christmas or even a short time after when people typically wish others "Happy New Year!" I know it makes me feel good when someone wishes me a "good" or "merry" any day.

I imagine it makes others feel good to not just hear it, but to say it, particularly when it elicits a smile and a reciprocated reply of "thank you" or a repeat of whatever greeting.

Helen Keller, the American author and educator who was blind and deaf said, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart."

The heart.

We all have one. Sometimes I think we just need to open it up more and tap into it to unleash the kindness that can be dormant. I think this happens with the seasonal greetings such as "Happy Thanksgiving" and "Happy New Years!"

Of course none of this could happen and the world go on.

Just as it always has where everyone waits for the particular season

or holiday to tell people (what is essentially an action) they care.

I'm sure that's what will happen. This editorial has some reach, but I recognize there are limits with circulation and its popularity.

But I can imagine. Hmmm ...

Perhaps the feeling between people after an interaction of seasonal greetings wouldn't be as good if it was all the time? But maybe, maybe, the good feeling would always be felt, and maybe, just maybe, the good feeling I write about would be catalyst for other positive feelings, which could lead to other actions to show gratitude for loved ones and, particularly, strangers.

Imagine how great our world would be if we did that. Maybe the empty statements we pay each other (as the go-to phrases during brief interactions with strangers and acquaintances) wouldn't be so empty if we felt the value of such actions were authentic and spoke from the heart instead of the mind.

It could become an insignificant action, which is part of a collection of actions on any given day and we end up not putting the intention of heart behind them.

And then ...

Maybe it leads to a more positive place for everyone, particularly those that wouldn't otherwise hear anything positive in any other context.

What a better place it could be.

I challenge you to not just find the words to say, but ensure your heart is in it when you do extend the greeting or the message of gratitude.

After all, it doesn't really cost us anything, but our time and the intention to care.

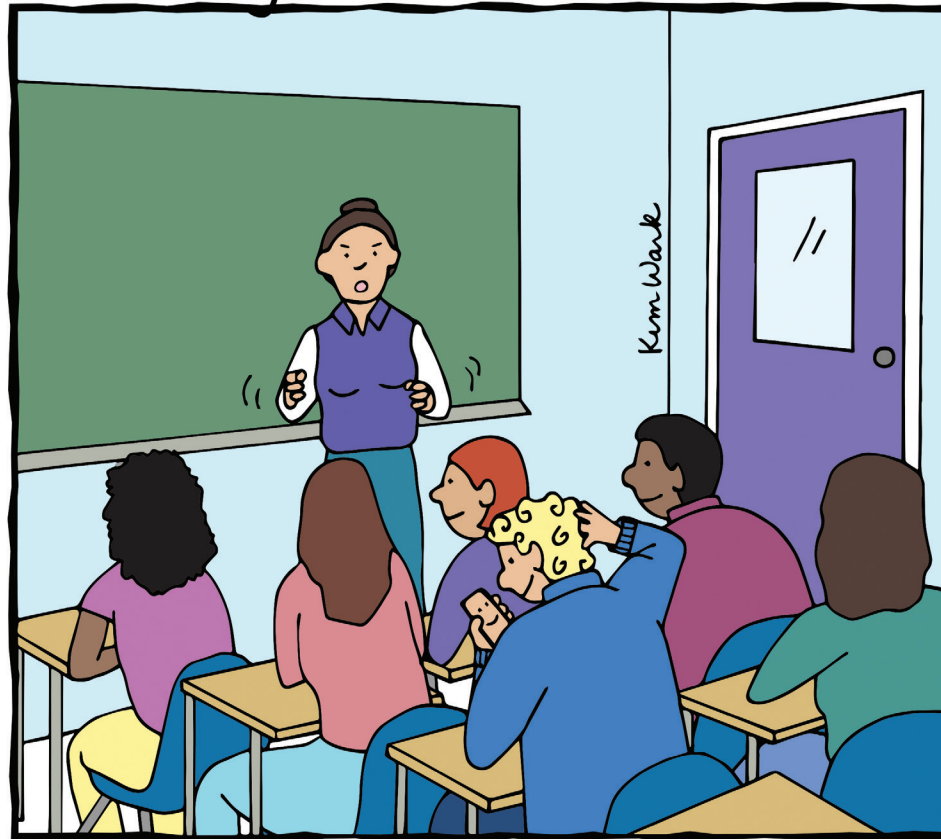
It's within us all. It comes from the heart and it could mean so much to those in need of a shaft of light to illuminate what is otherwise a dark period someone is facing.

Bring the light for yourself and others.

I believe we can. Do you?

**DARREN LUM**
Editor

Kwarky



"Narcissus! Pay attention!"

Trees and the anti-hunter

IF YOU READ THIS column even a little, you are probably aware that I love hunting. It's something I was raised with and an activity that has had the greatest positive influence on me. It has taught me about animals, nature, self-sufficiency, the natural world, and has encouraged me to be out in the woods, thickets, and marshes at times that few folks but hunters would ever consider.

Also, I look pretty good in hunter orange and even better if the camo I choose is really working.

That's great, but I also recognize that there are people who do not feel the same way about hunting as I do. But they still love nature as I, and the vast majority of hunters, do. So, this column is an olive branch to those folks.

So, here goes. Hey, anti-hunter, want to get back at hunters like me? If so, plant a tree.

Why? Is it because hunters do not like trees? Well, actually, we do. Mostly. For we know that trees provide food, cover and habitat for the animals we hunt. We also know that trees are critical to a healthy eco-system.

Having said that there are times when a tree clearly does not have the best interest of the hunter at heart. Grouse, deer, moose, bear, hare, squirrel, waterfowl, turkey, and woodcock hunting immediately come to mind. In fact, every animal we hunt will be shielded by a tree at the exact time a hunter is planning to shoot them. Sometimes, the animal we are shooting at will move behind the tree in an act of obvious unsportsmanlike conduct. But mostly the trees will suddenly jump out in

front of the animal.

The grouse I shot at the other day is a prime example of this.

My dog Rosie was running by a thick-trunked tree, when she detected the scent of a bird and did a hard U-turn and flushed a ruffed grouse hiding on the other side of it. The grouse rose and as I was getting my gun up for the shot, the tree leapt in the way to shield the bird. Honestly, I never miss a flushing grouse, so there is no other way to explain how the tree got in the line of fire. Sure, it took a little bird shot, but

it was a hardwood that had been abused by generations of woodpeckers and insects, so no big deal there.

The only thing hurt was my pride.

The point is every year, this happens countless times to hunters. And it is frustrating. Honestly, it is the main reason why we do not hug trees.

So, there you go. If you are an anti-hunter, the best way to

get back at hunters and, at the same time, help wildlife is to plant trees. After all, trees provide benefits to wildlife and can literally save their lives.

I'd suggest oaks on the ridge where I hunt deer and turkey. They stop bullets and birdshot well. Oh, and deer and other wildlife will come a long way to feed on the acorns they drop. Plant them on the upwind side of my stand.

And in other areas where I hunt grouse and deer, you can get back at me by planting, alders, ironwood, hawthorns, and apple trees. Especially apple trees. And, since I held out the olive branch, maybe you could reciprocate by considering a very slim-trunked variety.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Birds for better health

PROBABLY THE BEST thing anyone can do after listening to a morning newscast is to go outside and listen to the birds. Studies show that birds are beneficial to our mental health, and our mental health can use all the benefits it can get in these troubled times.

A study in the United Kingdom reported an abundance of birds is positively associated with lower prevalence of depression, anxiety and stress in people. And, during the coronavirus pandemic a poll of 2,000 UK adults found that two-thirds had improved enjoyment because of hearing and watching birds.

Another study, spanning 26 countries in Europe, directly associated life satisfaction with seeing and hearing birds, or experiencing landscapes that promote bird richness.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Few will argue that having birds around makes us feel better. Sadly, however, the world's bird populations continue to decline.

BirdLife International reported recently that 49 per cent of the earth's birds are in decline. Its 2018 report said 40 per cent are in decline, so the number of birds at risk has increased by a whopping nine per cent in only four years.

BirdLife also said that one in eight bird species are threatened with extinction.

This bad news follows a 2019 *Science* journal report that there are 2.9 billion fewer individual birds in Canada and the United States than there were 50 years

earlier. That's a 29 per cent decline.

Climate change is an emerging driver for bird declines, according to a new study released earlier this week by Cornell University in New York State. Climate changes are affecting migration patterns with some birds flying north earlier in the spring and delaying autumn migration.

There is some evidence that some birds are skipping fall migration altogether.

Birds take their cues from the environment, so if climate changes alter migration times and routes, feeding patterns and breeding times also are affected.

Climate change may be becoming an important factor, but habitat loss has been the main reason for bird declines over many decades. Residential and commercial development, agriculture and logging all have been taking away habitat birds need for life.

Hunting and trapping, wildfires and the introduction of invasive alien species also have been a factor.

Reports documenting the disappearance of birds is no surprise to many of us. Every year there seem to be fewer common birds at our feeders and less birdsong in the trees around us.

Declining bird numbers are not a tragedy because there are fewer to provide us joy. Birds are essential service workers who pollinate our plants, disperse seeds over large areas, and control insects.

Most importantly, they are nature's sentries, warning us of dangers to the health of our environment.

Bird extinctions can lead to extinctions of essential plants, which can lead to extinctions of insects and other flora and fauna. One extinction leads to a chain reaction, which eventually leads to human beings.

Fortunately, there is a growing awareness of the fact that everything in nature is connected. That awareness is helping to promote individual actions that help to reduce bird losses.

Here are a few suggestions that bird protection groups say can help:

Think about having less lawn and more native plants around your home.

Use film or other items that stop reflections and prevent birds from flying into windows.

Keep cats indoors or controlled when outside.

Avoid pesticides.

Buy shade-grown coffee. Farmers cut down forests to grow coffee in the sun.

Shade-grown coffee protects forests.

Reduce use of plastics, which can be particularly harmful to seabirds.

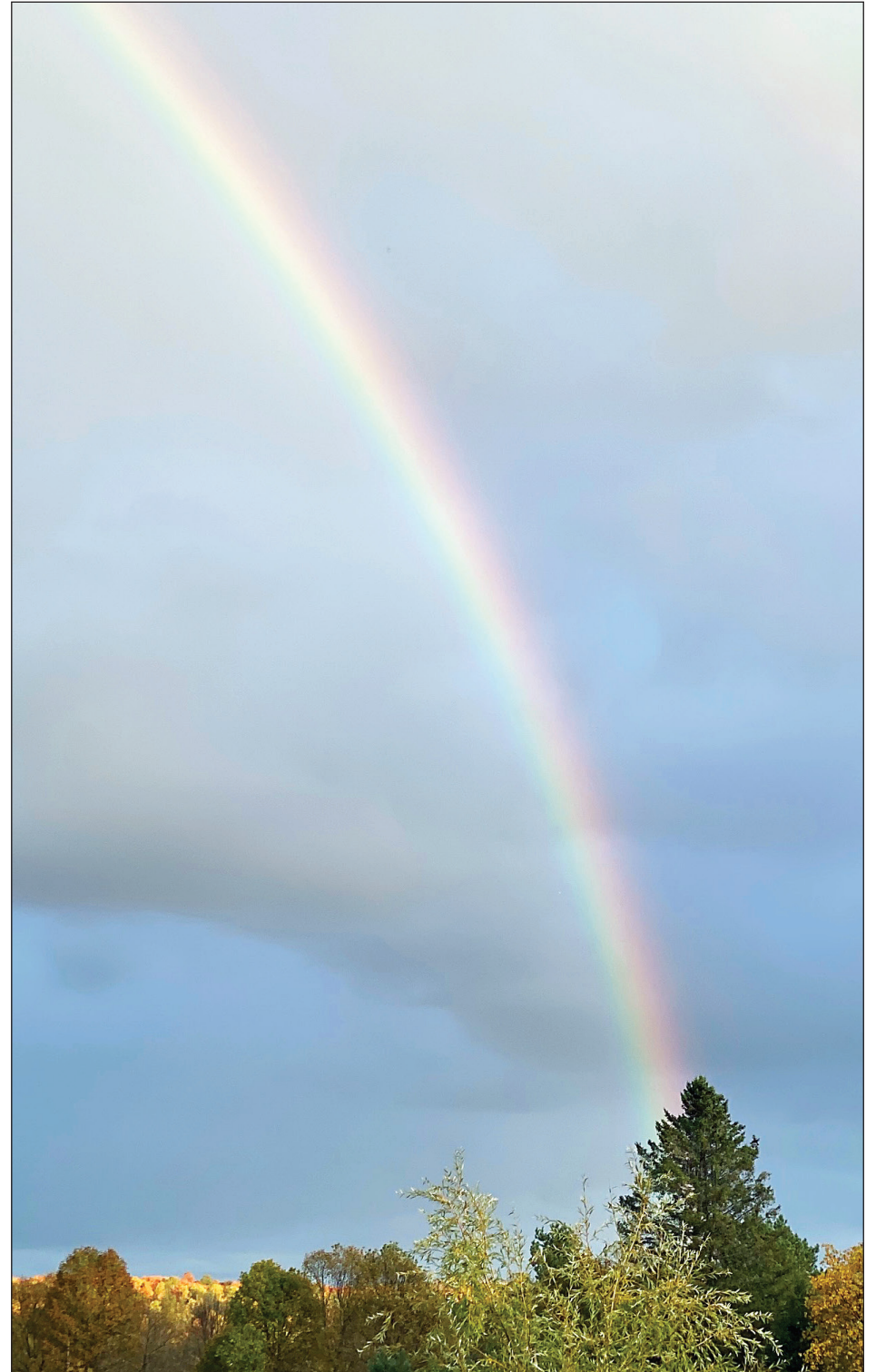
Get involved with citizen projects such as the Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch.

We humans need birds for our mental well-being. With killer viruses on the rise, Putin threatening to unleash nuclear weapons and the U.S. on the verge of another civil war, it's a relief just to step outside and hear a sparrow singing to its mate.

As Sam Knight, a program manager at the Nature Conservancy of Canada, told the CBC recently:

"It's such a great mental health benefit to have these birds and species around; you don't even have to be a bird watcher, I don't think, to really appreciate what birds add to our lives."

letters to the editor



Rainbow view on Sunday, Oct. 9 in Minden. /Submitted by Guenter Horst

HCPL's DVD of the Month - October



Twelve-year-old Bird lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father. For a decade, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve "American culture" in the wake of years of instability and violence. To keep the peace, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic—including the work of Bird's mother, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old.

For his own safety, Bird has grown up disavowing his mother and her poems; he doesn't know what happened to her, and he knows he shouldn't wonder. But when he receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, he is pulled into a quest to find her.

An inspiring novel about a mother's unbreakable love in a society consumed by fear, borrow *Our Missing Hearts* from HCPL today.

Huskies hold Golden Hawks to two goals

Haliburton County Huskies forward Myles Perry, centre, is held in check by Trenton Golden Hawks defenceman Nathan Oickle, far right, as Dillion Stiles collects the loose puck during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies beat the Golden Hawks 6-2. /DARREN LUM Staff



Haliburton County Huskies captain Christian Stevens, from left, takes a faceoff against Trenton Golden Hawks centre Joe Webber.



Haliburton County Huskies Sam Solarino stays ahead of his check during an offensive rush. The game's three stars were: first star, Patrick Saini with five points (three goals and two assists), second star, Ty Collins with three points (one goal and two assists), and third star, Zack Morissette, who scored his first OJHL goal.

Haliburton
County
Huskies
forward
Declan
Bowmaster
battles for
a loose
puck after a
faceoff.
/DARREN
LUM Staff



The Haliburton County Huskies celebrate Ty Collins' goal during the second period.



The Haliburton County Huskies sent fans home happy with a 6-2 win.

NORTHERN LIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION THANK YOU

The Haliburton Highlands Performing Arts Society would like to thank our patrons for their cooperation over the past summer theatre season as we returned to live theatre performances.

We would also like to acknowledge the support received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Their funding enabled us to employ a Covid Protocol Officer who kept our patrons, staff, and performers safe throughout the season.

As we move forward, we would encourage our patrons and user groups of the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion to continue to use masks when attending performances at the theatre. This is currently common practice throughout all live theatre venues in the province.

Thank you again. See you at the theatre.



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Driving for dough

A golfer at the Haliburton County Home Builders Golf Tournament held at the Gull River Golf Club on Thursday, Sept. 29. The tournament raised close to \$2,000 for the food banks in Haliburton County. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Golfers prepare for the shotgun start at the Haliburton County Home Builders Golf Tournament held at the Gull River Golf Club on Thursday, Sept. 29.



Jamie Luck participates in the putting competition at the Haliburton County Home Builders Golf Tournament held at the Gull River Golf Club on Thursday, Sept. 29.

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Toronto Junior Canadiens

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Trenton Golden Hawks

For more more information please visit our website

Killara Station showcases canine power

Sled Dog Sports Association of Southern Ontario (SSASO) held the Killara Station Time Trial (and fun races) for club points on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Killara Station in Minden. This club is working on raising awareness about dog sports, including the competitive race circuit in Ontario.

SSASO has teamed up with the brand new COHDS (Committee of Harness Dog Sports of Ontario) that will select its own competitors for Canadians. In prior years the Canadian Federation had to do that for Ontario. There were 26 teams in this race. The classes were one and two-dog scooter, one and two-dog bikejor, and canicross where you just run attached to the dog!

Dogs and people had a super fun time exercising in beautiful fall weather together at the gorgeous Killara Station farm.

Competitors often help each other out to get to the start line, as dogs barked with excitement. There is a strong camaraderie between the competitors!

"When I do the set up for these events I always wonder if it is worth all the time. After the events I always feel totally energized for days," said organizer and world class competitor Karen Koehler. "It is so nice to have a fun event to go to right at home. I feel super blessed that Killara Station enjoys holding these events!"

There was a mix of competitors from the new racers to veterans, and speed demon teams. It was a super great way to bring in the month of October for people and their best fur friends.

If people would like to learn how to do these sports with their dogs, lessons are available through Yours Outdoors/ Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve Ltd. with Karen Koehler. She also teaches skijoring and kicksled. You can check out the SSASO website for information on upcoming events you could register for as well. See www.facebook.com/SSASO.Club for more information.

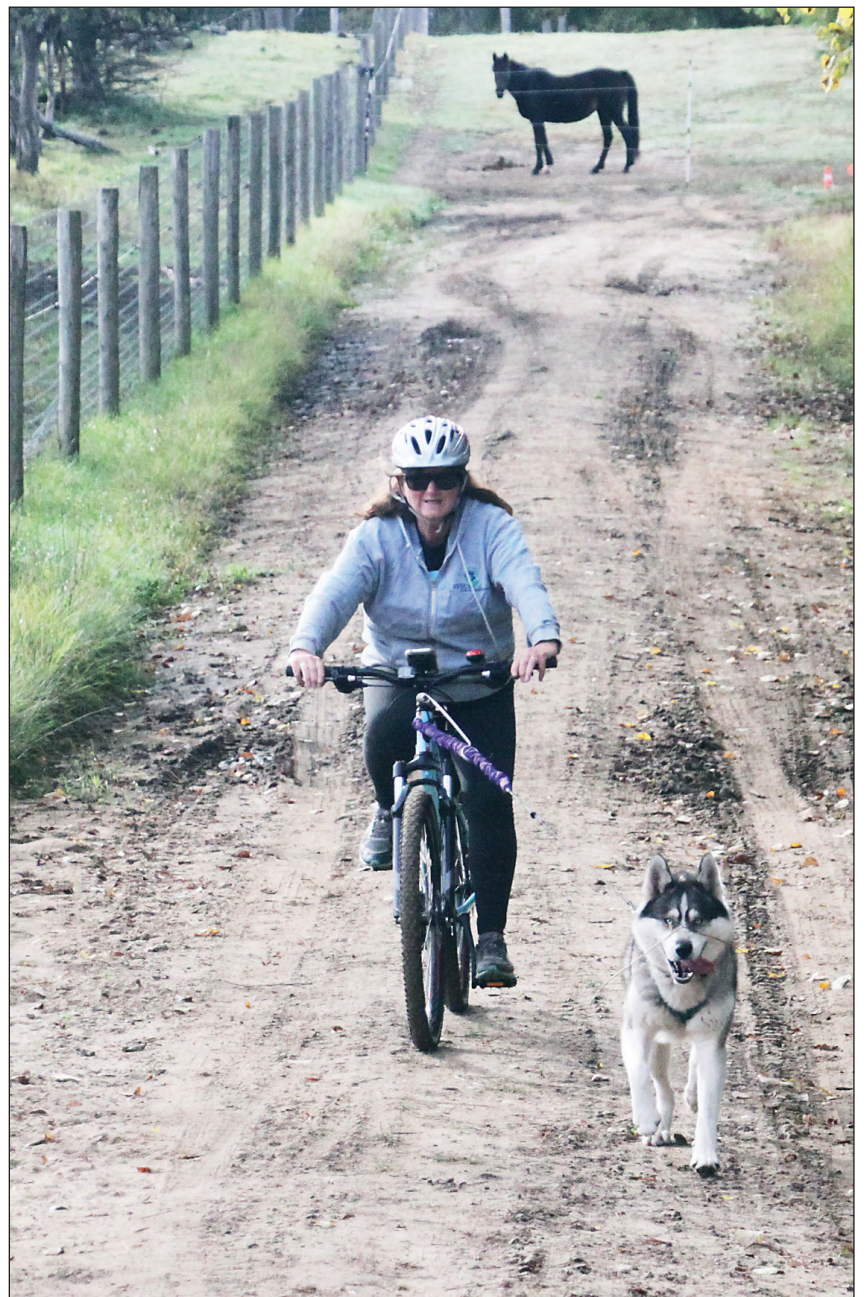
Submitted by Karen Koehler



Floriane Vallery with her dogs, Bolt and Luna compete in the two-dog scooter race at the Killara Station Time Trial on Oct. 1 in Minden. Hosted by the Sled Dog Sports Association of Southern Ontario, the event included a fun race and an opportunity for competitors to earn club points. /Submitted by Karen Koehler



Lowell Greib and his dog Tuli embrace after the two kilometre canicross race at the Killara Station Time Trial on Oct. 1 in Minden.



Sandy Higgins competes with her dog in a bikejoring race at the Killara Station Time Trial on Oct. 1 in Minden.



Hawks host Hurricanes
Left, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School varsity field hockey player Ava Allaire goes head-to-head with her opponent from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Peterborough during the first of two games played on the Gary G. Brohman athletic field on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Below, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School varsity field hockey player Jocelyn Thompson speeds past her opponent from Holy Cross. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



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1						6		
	5				3			2
				8	6	4	9	5
	3	6	2		9		4	
				6	4			
		4	8					1
	2	5			1	8		
	6		4	2	8		5	3
9		3			7	2		4

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 13

Red Hawks ballers return to the court


The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls' basketball team returned to the court this fall for the first time in a decade. After years without enough interest to field a team, 16 girls came to tryouts starting the second week of school and have all remained with the team. Being just shy of having enough players to field separate junior and senior squads, the team is competing as a varsity (junior and senior combined) program this year, playing at the senior level.

They returned to the court on Thursday, Sept. 29 at St. Thomas Aquinas in Lindsay. The team came out strong, taking an early lead which they never relinquished on their way to a 36-24 victory. Hawks captain Avery Horner led all scorers with 14 points.

The Hawks home games will be against Fenelon Falls Secondary School on Oct. 13 against I.E. Weldon on and Nov. 2. Tip off on both days is at 3 p.m. If the team finishes first among A teams, it will host the Kawartha Championship on Nov. 8. Their chances to host are strong because the only other A school is St. Thomas, who they have defeated.

With two Kawartha championship berths, the St. Thomas and the Red Hawks are assured of a post-season run.

Submitted by Mike Rieger



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to darren@haliburtonpress.com



“Bike HCRT October 2022” win a prize for rail trail pedalling

Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) is partnering with Algonquin Outfitters and Canoe FM to encourage cycling on our Haliburton County Rail Trail (HCRT) this fall. Four draws will be held throughout October to give away \$25 gift cards to lucky cyclists. Tune in to 100.9 Canoe FM community radio on Friday afternoons for the on-air prize draws.

FoRT extends an invitation to people of all ages to enjoy the fall colours from the seat of a bike and enter to win one of these gift cards from Algonquin Outfitters, which you can put towards cozy mitts or a new bike bell.

Choose your own challenge to discover a new section of the HCRT. You can find a map with all access points on the public Facebook page of Friends of the Rail Trail Haliburton – just Search in your browser, you don’t have to be “on Facebook” to view the page.

“My personal challenge is to bike it every Saturday in October”, says FoRT chair Pamela Marsales. “I started with an end-to-end on Oct. 1. My knees protested for a couple of days after. I found the trail surface is firmer and easier to ride south of Gelert.”

From Boundary Road (just north of Kinmount) heading north there are points of interest such as

Black Rock, the Howland Junction trestle bridge, the historic Gelert Cemetery, the iron bridge over Drag River, and the Sedgwick farm fields.

“We’d like to hear about all kinds of bicycle adventures: solo, family, group rides. Ride it and report it to FoRT through the Facebook page or email, in text, with photos or video, or even over the phone.” All will be entered for a chance to win.

Phone 705-457-4767, email pamela.marsales@gmail.com or check Facebook’s Friends of the Rail Trail Haliburton www.facebook.com/friendsoftherailtrailhaliburton.

Submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

1	4	8	5	9	2	6	3	7
6	5	9	7	4	3	1	8	2
3	7	2	1	8	6	4	9	5
5	3	6	2	1	9	7	4	8
8	1	7	3	6	4	5	2	9
2	9	4	8	7	5	3	6	1
4	2	5	9	3	1	8	7	6
7	6	1	4	2	8	9	5	3
9	8	3	6	5	7	2	1	4

The Friends of the Rail Trail's Pamela Marsales is inviting people of all ages to get outside and “Bike HCRT October 2022” this autumn. The HCRT stands for Haliburton County Rail Trail and the Friends of the Rail Trail are working with Algonquin Outfitters and Canoe FM to encourage people to get out on their bikes with four \$25 gift cards. Tune in to 100.9 Canoe FM community radio on Friday afternoons for the on-air prize draws. /Submitted by Pamela Marsales



Election Information

The 2022 Municipal Election will be conducted by internet or telephone voting.

Voter information letters for the Oct. 24 municipal election have been mailed. If you have not received your Voter Information Letter please contact the municipal office at 705-489-2379.

Voting will commence at 9 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 14, with voting continuing through until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Monday, Oct. 24, 2022.

A Voter Help and Revision Centre is located at the Township Office, 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, to assist electors with the Internet/Telephone Voting process, and other general election inquiries. The Voter Help and Revision Centre will be supplied with an internet connection to accommodate voting during the voting period. You may also call the Township office at 705-489-2379 for assistance.

The following are the hours of the Voter Help and Revision Centre:

- Monday to Friday during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from September 1, 2022 to October 21, 2022 (closed on public holidays)
- Saturday, October 15, 2022 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Saturday, October 22, 2022 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Monday October 24, 2022 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM (VOTING DAY)

For further election information, including instructions for voting by telephone and internet, visit <https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/government/elections.php> or call 705-489-2379.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2022.

Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk
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The candidate requires a degree or diploma in Human Resources, with 2-3 years of relevant experience, Healthcare experience would be an asset. Above average skills in MS Office, HRIS programs and employment legislation knowledge is beneficial. Promotes a respectful and kind approach to others.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources
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In Loving Memory of **Robert Christopher Simson**

Robert Christopher Simson, 64, passed away on Monday, September 26th at Minden Hospital. Bob, as he was known to family and friends, was in comfort and surrounded by loved ones.

Bob is survived by the love of his life, his wife Jane Frigault, with whom he shared 39 wonderful years. Bob has two daughters, Maryann and Shannon (Kevin), whom he also adored.

Born in Marlow, England, Bob emigrated to Canada as a young boy with his parents Dorothy Butler and Fred Simson. He is survived by siblings Stephen, Allan, Rosemary, Joan, Jeremy, and Anne.

From early on, Bob had fascination with engines and mechanics, which led him to frequently disassemble anything with engines or gears... "to see what makes them go".

Bob continued to work with cars, trucks, and anything with a motor throughout his life. He was ever willing to share his time and knowledge with friends, family, and neighbours.

One of his many achievements, and great source of pride was when he owned and operated his Freightliner truck. A great teller of stories, he enjoyed music, laughter, and the company of family and friends.

Bob also leaves behind three beautiful grandchildren, Rhys, Sydney and Darcy.

Friends and family are invited to a Celebration of Life, on October 15th, 2022, at Gordon A Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden Ontario, between 3 and 5pm.

Memorial Donations can be made to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHS). <https://www.hhhs.ca/foundation>.



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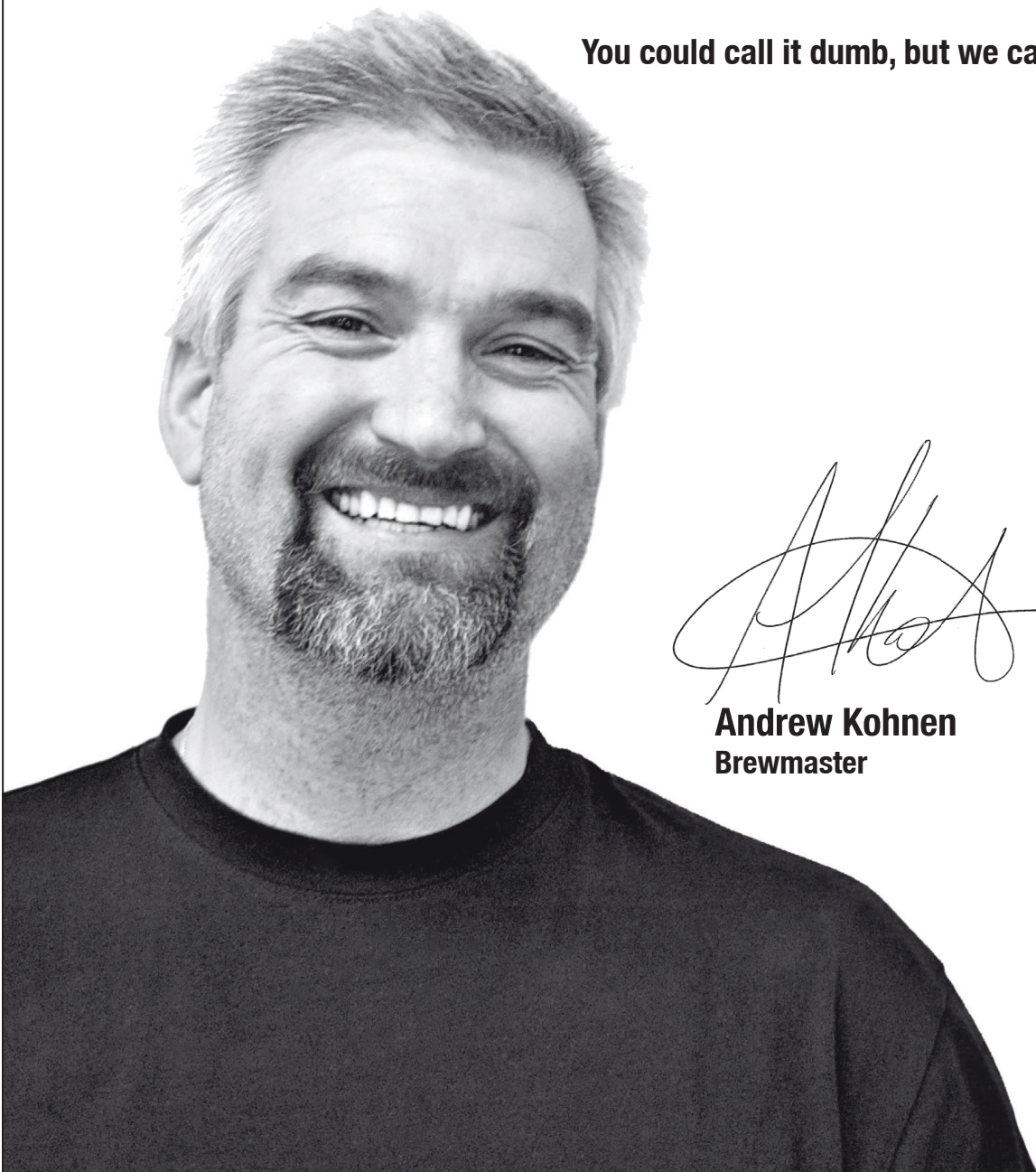


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Election '91

The nominations are now closed, and it's time to choose from our complete list of candidates.
See page 2

Critical list

Minden resident Judy Stevenson has faced more setbacks in a Baltimore hospital.
See page 3

On the run

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students take part in their annual cross-country race.
See page 10

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PUC chairman opposes \$400,000 well proposal

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

A recommendation to spend almost \$400,000 on a new well for the village of Minden is being criticized by the chairman of the public utilities committee.

In a letter sent to council last week, committee chairman Ed Pergolas questioned the need to spend \$392,000 to drill a new well on Bobcaygeon Road when an existing well has already been dug beside the municipal firehall, at a cost of only \$45,387.

The search for an addi-

tional water source for the village began 18 months ago when the municipality was advised that the existing wells could not support future development.

Northern Eagle Engineering was hired and, after a series of locations and options were considered, a new well was drilled on St. Germain Street beside the firehall.

According to Pergolas, ensuing geology studies and water quality tests, carried out by Geo Logic Inc., showed that the well had adequate water supply and suitable water quality.

There were problems receiving approval from the Ministry of the Environment however, and earlier this year the municipality discharged Northern Eagle and tendered for a new engineering consultant. Up to this point \$45,387 had been spent on the new well, out of a reserve fund of \$160,000 set aside for the project.

A new company, Triton Engineering, was hired at a tendered price of \$47,000 to do a complete report and make recommendations on a preferred location for a new well.

Concerns were raised about the water quality at the St. Germain well because the levels of turbidity, (murkiness due to suspended solids), exceeded provincial standards.

Geo Logic offered to return to the site, run a seven-day pumping test in an effort to clean the water and then re-test the well. The company said it would perform the work at no additional cost.

Because of the contract with Triton Engineering, the
(more on page 4)

OHIP changes threaten flight of snowbirds

by Susan Grober

Ontario's annual payments to American health care institutions have more than doubled in the last three years,

and recent changes to provincial regulations for health coverage were made to stop abuse of the system.

But for those local residents known as snowbirds, it means the rates for insurance coverage have skyrocketed.

Last year, OHIP paid a total of \$225 million in medical costs - \$204 million of which went to hospitals, and \$21 million for physicians fees - in the United States.

In response, as of October 1 the Ontario Ministry of Health has limited payments to an average of what is paid for the same service in Ontario.

Like most other snowbirds, Bea and Jim Hindle found the cost of their

Blue Cross coverage has tripled as a result of the changes, from about \$500 to \$1,500.

"It's disgusting, as far as I'm concerned," says Mrs. Hindle. "It's an awful blow. It's awfully high for seniors, because many only have their pension cheques to live on, and they don't get pay increases like those who aren't retired. It's a shocker."

"We were seriously considering not going down at all," he says. "We don't have an awful lot of money, and we may have to watch our spending now."

Mr. Hindle says the couple has been shopping around, and finally opted for a plan from a local bank which only costs about \$550.

However, this rate was offered until October 1, and Mr. Hindle feels it would probably increase after this date.

A number of the couples'
(more on page 5)

**Apple polishers**

Last weekend local Scouts, Cubs and Beavers were out selling apples as part of their fundraising efforts. On Friday, Matthew Heffer, Michael Hamilton, Ian MacKenzie and Curtis Barry, shown above, were among the Scouts who gathered in the basement of St. Paul's Anglican Church to polish the apples and place them in baskets before hitting the streets.

Minden lot levies should triple: planner

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

Lot levies in the village of Minden should be tripled in order to pay for increased municipal services in the next 10 years, Minden council has been told.

At last Thursday's council meeting, municipal planners Jim Dymont and Dana Anderson presented a development charges study to council. The study, required by provincial legislation, catalogued the amount of money the township can expect to spend on capital improvement in the next decade and determines how much of that amount should be paid by

new developments.

Currently the municipality charges \$1,000 for each lot created through severance or plan of subdivision. In order to keep pace with the cost of expanding services as the community grows, Dymont suggested new lots created within the village should carry a levy of \$3,200 and rural lots should have a \$700 development charge.

Dymont also recommended that industrial and commercially zoned lots should be exempt from development charges as a way to encourage commercial and industrial development.

The Development

Charges Act was introduced by the Ontario government in 1989. It requires municipalities to justify the amount of money being collected from new developments.

Under the Act, municipalities must undertake a study to determine the cost of expanding municipal services as a result of the community's growth, and determine how much of this cost should be borne by developers.

"New development costs you money," Dymont told the councillors. "If you don't charge lot levies to offset the cost, people already living here will have to pay for it. It's really fair to existing resi-

dents that new developments pay their own way."

In conducting the study Dymont and Anderson predicted, with the help of municipal staff, the capital improvements the municipality would have to make to accommodate growth in the 10 years.

Among the findings were:

* An increase of 713 households, representing 2,069 new residents, in the township by the year 2001;

* The need to purchase a third fire truck and expand the fire hall;

* A projected increase in
(more on page 4)

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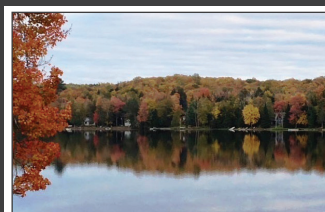
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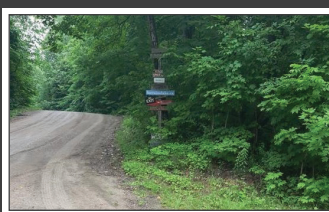
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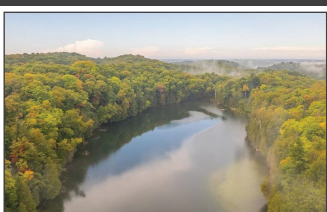
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